

**City of Bloomington
Telecommunications Council
Business Meeting – May 7th, 2013**

**Common Council Chambers
City Hall at the Showers Building
401 N. Morton St.**

I. Members Present: Thom Gillespie, Carl Zager, and Eric Ost

Members Absent: Duane Busick

Note: There is one vacant position available on the Telecommunications Council.

II. Public Comment

Lennon Beasley

April 2013

- Produced 3 new programs of Bowling Practice Show, as well as Season 13 Finale, and Season 14 Episode 1 & 2
- Produced 3 more programs of Lennon Beasley Drum Show Episodes 525-527
- Produced 3 programs of Worship Celebration
- Created a brand new program called "Inspiration Today", similar to New Beginnings program. Four episodes already completed.
- 13 programs produced for the month of April

II. Approval of Minutes:

Carl Zager motioned that the minutes from the April meeting be accepted. Eric seconded the motion. No discussion was held. Question was called, all were in favor.

IV. Reports and Announcements

1. Telecom Members: No reports

2. CATS – Michael White, CATS

* Monthly programming

-Vital Quiz Bowl

-35 Governmental meetings

-BEE Awards

-Regional Conference of Alliance for Community Media of Central States was attended by Jason Radke. Eric Ost also spoke via Skype on a panel that took place during this conference also.

Eric Ost - Eric Muhlberg is the chair for the Central States Alliance for Community Media, and there are 5 of these grouping throughout the United States. Conference is usually held once a year. Eric Muhlberg asked me to participate on the panel. The idea was that there are various opportunities and threats facing community access, including franchise fees being decreased or resented by law, as well as opportunities to use new technology and new venues. The issue of people who have different perspectives on video production and media production was also discussed.

Carl Zager – Was the panel discussion taped? Would it be possible to hold a similar discussion here in Bloomington?

Eric Ost – I think it is definitely a possibility for CATS to host something similar. If Michael, being the director of CATS, would be willing to put the panel together; we as the Telecommunication Council would support and could participate.

Michael White – It could even be like a tele-communication work session. It would be great to invite external parties in to discuss the issues.

Eric Ost – It would be good to have the public input.

Thom Gillespie – I can think of a few people I would invite, possibility via Skype. This maybe is something we should do more than once a year. It also doesn't need to be too long, maybe an hour unless it is a hot issue. Something similar to "Ask the Mayor" like WTIU does.

Michael White – It would be great to have Eric Muhlberg down. He has at least 30 years experience with community access. He also has a deep technical and legislative background.

Carl Zager – What does the PEG access picture look like in Allen County?

Michael White – Don't know. In what respect are you asking about?

Carl – Are they as active as Monroe/Bloomington are?

Michael White – Pretty active! Their public access is a little more active. We have a pretty good edge on converting all our facilities over to HD as fast as we can.

Thom Gillespie – When would be a good time to set up a panel discussion like this?

Michael White – I could look at our global scheduling when there might be a good time. Personally, I would prefer after the budget hearings.

Thom Gillespie – That would probably be good time and a good point of discussion. When would the budget hearings be done?

Michael White – September

Eric Ost – There will be hearings in July, and then there is a break. Then one of the first major pieces of legislation is the passing of the budget.

Michael White – This would be a good year for it because after the budget hearings we would usually gear up for election coverage, and we won't have any this year.

Eric Ost - The Finance Committee will be meeting during the overlap. They will be collecting franchise fee receipts from all municipalities, and they will review those. They want some specifics on how the franchise fees are spent. The committee is moving forward with the review.

Carl Zager – The interaction with the budget is critical but I also think the number of people or availability of people is more critical. When will that critical mass develop?

Thom Gillespie – It might even be more helpful to do it before to be able to explain to people what happens during budget hearings. I dislike the idea of waiting till after September. It needs to be sooner than that to get the process started.

Eric Ost – The Rules Committee will write a report that will be reviewed as the normal process if new legislation is to be introduced. I think it would be great to have legislation introduced that is pro-access. An issue that Eric Muhlberg has mentioned is some towns in Indiana would like to get an access channel, but that is one of the grey areas of this law. They have the ability to request a channel but to what that process is isn't defined. I'm in Thom's camp for setting this up sooner than later. As far as your budget process, do you have any idea how that is going to move forward?

Michael White – We've looked at some of the franchise numbers. The city is down 1.3%, county .76%, and the Town of Ellettsville up 8%.

Carl Zager - I really appreciate the reality of Michael's budget and lack of budget. There is a larger picture that we have been talking about for 2 to 3 years. Do we have a plan to provide PEG access on our system? Do we want to look at something in June with maybe a follow-up in August?

Michael White – I would need to go back and check the schedule but I would also like to check the schedule of Allen County. I think they should be a key player in this.

All communications will take place thru emails.

3. WTIU – No report

V. Information from or about Video Service Provider - No Report

VI. Old Business - None

VII. New Business

Created a show about public access, also need a new title for public access.

Thom Gillespie – Could Lennon Beasley be the producer for our show?

Michael White – We have crews, but Lennon would be more than welcome to be a part of the process.

Lennon Beasley was asked, and accepted to help with the process of the Public Access Discussion Show.

VII. Adjournment

Thom Gillespie motioned for adjournment.

Next Regular Meeting

June 4th, 2013

Common Council Chambers in City Hall at the Showers Building
401 N. Morton St.

Submitted by:

Stephanie Jachim 5/23/2013